



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**  
**Police Officer Standards and Training Council**  
**Connecticut Police Academy**

Chairpersons Horne and Osten, ranking members Champagne and Howard and distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee,

As the Chairperson of the Police Officers Standards and Training Council (POSTC), I offer the following written testimony on behalf of the POSTC.

Regarding ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HATE CRIMES INVESTIGATIVE UNIT WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE AND REQUIRING DEVELOPMENT OF A REPORTING SYSTEM, BEST PRACTICES AND A MODEL INVESTIGATION POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS REGARDING HATE CRIMES.***

Having consulted with proponents of the bill, specifically in the areas that impact the responsibilities of the POSTC, I offer our support in the following sections of the Act.

The POSTC, in consultation with the Commissioner of DESPP and the State-wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, are best situated to develop the standards, practices and the reporting mechanism used by police departments to notify the Hate Crimes Unit of a Hate Crime event in a particular municipality. Further, the POSTC will disseminate a model policy to all law enforcement agencies throughout the state and provide training to police departments regarding their responsibilities under the policy.

In my view, requiring police departments to notify the Hate Crimes Unit not later than fourteen (14) days after receiving "*notification, information or a complaint of any criminal activity or suspected criminal activity described (in the act)*", is reasonable and should not place any unnecessary burden upon our police departments.

The CT General Statutes listed in the act are consistent with those violations that constitute Hate Crimes and are appropriate for reporting.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Keith Mello  
Chief of Police, City of Milford  
Chairperson, Police Officers Standards and Training Council